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discovery of a fourth segment in the suboesophageal ganglion of Anurida is entirely useless since the endolabium of Phalacrocera larva is not homologous with the paraglossae of the Thysanura.

The Habits and Structure of a Myriapod.— S. R. Williams[1] presents many new observations on the habits and structure of the interesting myriapod, *Scutigerella immaculata.* Its distribution, environment, light and water relations, and food habits are discussed. Experimental evidence favors the conclusion that the species is carnivorous. There is also presented considerable data regarding the eggs and the larvae. The newly-hatched larva has seven pairs of legs while the adult has twelve pairs. The author regards it as a highly specialized young, rather than a generalized ancestral form such as the hexapod larva of other diplopods is considered to be.

Musical Organs of the Cicadidae.— Among the most remarkable and effective voice-organs of the entire animal kingdom are the "drums" at the base of the abdomen of the males of the "seventeen-year locust" and their relatives in the family Cicadidae. It would seem that for these insects any other musical apparatus would be superfluous but Jacobi,[2] '07, reports finding in the cicadid genus Tettigades, from Chili, stridulating organs very similar to those already reported for certain beetles, ants, and other forms. They consist of a pair of oval, roughened file-like areas on the dorsal part of the prothorax, just within and caudad of the bases of the front wings. On the caudal angle of each front wing is a thickened flap which serves as a scraper. Unlike the abdominal musical organs these stridulating organs are equally developed in both sexes.

W. A. Riley.

British Rhizopods:[3]— No group of organisms affords quicker or more satisfactory returns to the amateur microscopist than do the fresh water Rhizopoda, and few offer to the specialist greater opportunities for experimentation and investigation or more puzzling problems in the determination of species and the tracing of life histories.

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[1] Williams, S. R. Habits and structure of *Scutigerella immaculata. Proc. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist.*, 1907, xxxiii, pp. 461–485, pl. 36–38.

[2] Jacobi, A. Ein Schrillapparat bei Singcicaden. *Zool. Anz.*, 1907, xxxii, pp. 67–70.

[3] The British Freshwater Rhizopoda and Heliozoa. By James Cash and John Hopkinson. Vol. I. Rhizopoda. Part I. 150 pp. 16 Plates. London 1905.

It is therefore a matter of congratulation to all who are interested in this inviting field to learn that Messrs. Cash and Hopkinson have undertaken the preparation of a monograph of the Rhizopoda and Heliozoa of the British Isles. Penard's exhaustive treatises upon these organisms of the Swiss lakes have provided continental Europe with a very complete account of these protozoans and the present work aims at a similar analysis of the British fauna. The first volume includes the order Amoebina and a small part only of the Conchulina, proposed by the author in place of the Testacea of M. Schultze. In all, 17 genera and 46 species are described. The work is illustrated with well-executed lithographic plates and numerous text-figures, and is provided with very complete bibliographic and synonymic references, supplementing in these respects the more detailed and extensive works of Penard. The fullness of the bibliographic lists is shown by the fact that the references under *Amoeba proteus* occupy five closely set pages.

The introductory chapter discusses briefly the structure and activities of the rhizopodan cell and the structure and method of formation of the test. The discussion of the distribution and known habitats of the various genera and of the best methods of collecting rhizopods is both instructive and helpful. We note the revival of Leidy's genus Ouramoeba founded on individuals bearing a peculiar filamentous appendage. Professor W. L. Poteat has shown[1] that these supposed appendages are merely the mycelial hyphae of some parasitic fungus, a view which Penard also subsequently adopted. The authors seem not to have been aware of Poteat's work.

C. A. Kofoid.

BOTANY

Recent Studies on Gymnosperms.— Among the numerous recent contributions to our knowledge of the gymnosperms several are of more than usual importance. These deal with all the four orders and include work both on living and on fossil forms.

The discovery of spermatozoids in the cycads in 1896, and of those of Gingko at about the same time by the Japanese botanists Ikeno and Hirase, and shortly after Webber's studies on Zamia, gave a great impetus to the investigations on these very important plants, and our

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[1] Poteat, W. L. Leidy's Genus Ouramoeba. *Science*, N. S. vol. 8, p. 778–782.